

HELP! Charges on our telephone bill and our long distance/internet service bill are not what they infer they are. What appear to be required regulatory charges are often just charges the companies have added to "pad the bill." The telecommunications industry must be stopped from intentionally misleading the public with their billing practices. Therefore, we support petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format. The public needs to be able to do a side by side comparison of charges in order to make an informed decision about which telecommunication companies provide the services desired at the best price. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand, not filled with surcharges that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and ! wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in violation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit carriers from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority. Please give this matter your most thoughtful consideration.